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*Advocating for Life, Faith, and Freedom in the Public Square*

To: Members of the Civil Justice Committee

From: Chris Long, Ohio Christian Alliance President

Re: Opposing testimony on H.B. 369 expand civil rights laws-sexual orientation/remedies/religious

Thank you, Chairman Hambley, Vice Chair Patton, Ranking Member Brown, and members of the Civil Justice Committee, for receiving our testimony in opposition to H.B. 369, the so-called fairness act, that would expand civil rights based on sexual orientation or perceived sexual orientation.

H.B. 369, the LGBTQ special rights legislation, will create numerous problems for Ohioans across the state. Churches will be affected, as well as businesses and school districts, all based upon a sexual social experiment. The language of H.B. 369 is ambiguous and nondescript. These SOGI laws have been written to be ambiguous purposely to leave open the door for protection of other sexual practices and behaviors. H.B. 369, the LGBTQ special rights bill, provides for special rights, not equal rights. It presents a real threat to religious liberty of churches, synagogues, and houses of worship statewide. - If it were to become law, the church treasuries would be drained from legal battles for years to come, according to legal experts who represent faith interests in Ohio and across the country.

H.B. 369, the LGBTQ SOGI bill, violates the privacy rights of women and children by allowing members of the opposite sex to use bathrooms, locker rooms, showers, and athletic programs of their perceived gender identity. Parents of school children have expressed their concerns about this issue. They wonder what is happening to the privacy rights of their boy or girl in the local schools. Some have chosen to pull their children out of public schools because schools are pushing the LGBTQ agenda starting in the elementary school level. These are good Ohioans who do not discriminate against anyone, yet they feel their rights are being violated by those pushing this SOGI agenda. We of the Ohio Christian Alliance urge you to oppose H.B. 369 on the basis that it will trample on the basic rights of Ohioans if passed. Thank you for receiving our testimony today in opposition to H.B. 369.